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INAUGURAL MOTORCYCLE RIDE TO BENEFIT CRITICALLY ILL CHILDREN

*Biker's Believe raises funds for new Believe In Tomorrow retreat house for
critically ill children of military families.*

The Hendersonville, N.C., chapter of the Christian Motorcyclist Association and Pinnacle Falls are planning the inaugural Bikers Believe motorcycle ride and barbecue on Saturday, October 6, to benefit the Believe In Tomorrow Children's Foundation. The event, including a police escorted motorcycle ride from Hendersonville to Pinnacle Falls, N.C., will raise money for the new Believe In Tomorrow House at Pinnacle Falls, a retreat house dedicated to serving military families with critically ill children.

The ride begins at 11 a.m., with registration at 8 a.m. at Grace Community Church in Arden, N.C., and ends with barbecue, music and door prizes including tickets to a NASCAR race in Charlotte, N.C., and a weekend resort stay in Charleston, S.C, donated by Festiva Resorts. The Hendersonville and surrounding communities have been very gracious with their support for the new retreat house dedicated to the foundation's Military Initiative. In addition to organizing Bikers Believe, volunteers have donated time, services and goods for the construction of the Believe In Tomorrow House at Pinnacle Falls, scheduled to open in May.

"There have been so many people involved to make the first annual motorcycle ride come together. The process is very magical and it has been fun to do because of all of the support. It's been quite amazing," said Jennifer Taylor, marketing director for Pinnacle Falls and a coordinator for both Bikers Believe and the construction of the retreat house. Renaissance Communities donated the land for the house.

Local electrician, Joseph Wise is coordinating Bikers Believe and spearheading electrical donations for the house. Owner of J-4 Electric, Wise has secured electricians, suppliers and manufacturers to work together and supply the electrical wiring and fixtures for the house. "It was tremendous, I was just blown away by the people stepping up like they did," said Joseph Wise, who has a nephew and son-in-law in Baghdad and spent time in the army himself, and feels very strongly about the Military Initiative. "I live in a good place. People are close and we just step up when things need to get done."

Believe In Tomorrow's Military Initiative prioritizes military families with critically ill children in their retreat housing programs. While getting treatment for their child at a military hospital, families in the United States Armed Forces often are far from home without the support of extended family members. The Military Initiative acts as an outside support system that gives the opportunity for the families to be together in a comfortable environment.

Founded in 1982, Believe In Tomorrow provides exceptional hospital and retreat housing services to critically ill children and their families. Keeping families together during a child's medical crisis and the gentle cadence of normal family life has a powerful influence on the healing process. The Foundation has five respite houses on the East Coast and two hospital houses in Baltimore.

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